

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0031] of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

[0031] In addition, autonomous systems 23 and 25 include route reflectors (“RR” in FIG. 2) 22A and 22B, respectively, that communicate utilizing an exterior routing protocol, such as BGP (BGP). For example, if autonomous systems 23 and 25 are configured with the same autonomous system number, they could use Interior BGP (I-BGP) routing communications to exchange L2 service information, otherwise they could use multi-hop Exterior BGP (E-BGP) routing communications. Using BGP routing communications, route reflectors 22A and 22B exchange the L2 service information, e.g., VPLS service information 26. In this manner, route reflectors 22A and 22B may be viewed as intermediate route relay devices.

Please replace paragraph [0043] of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

[0043] In this example, router 50 also includes L2 state data 62 that generally represents the state data necessary to provide services for an L2 network. L2 state data 62 may, for example, specify MAC addresses for the L2 networks. Media Access Control (MAC) address state information, such as MAC addresses, for example, may be learned by MAC flooding and learning procedures during L2 communication.